

City of Socorro

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The Cranes are Coming!

Every November for the past who-knows-how-many years, tracks of giant cranes have appeared on Socorro's streets, guiding locals and tourists alike to the primary venues for the annual Festival of the Cranes. This year is no exception.

The Festival runs November 17 - 22, and features everything from Snowgoose Ecology to Digital Photography, to Loggerhead Shrikes, Burrowing Owls, and a flock of other interesting topics in workshops and lectures at the Macey Center.

Tuesday night the City will host a free, special reception for the annual Festival Photography Contest at the Knights of Pythias building across from the main fire station. It starts at 6 pm.

Curious about crows and ravens? Join Dr. John Marzluff of the University of Washington for the keynote talk Thursday night, November 18, 7 pm at the Macey Center.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday the Socorro Plaza area will host the exhibit tent: learn about fossils and artifacts with the State Archaeological Society, hear readings from Aldo Leopold's writings as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of his arrival in New Mexico, check out local artists and arts and crafts vendors at the Garcia Opera House and local galleries.

Listen to music and socialize with your neighbors and tourists alike at the Social on the Plaza Friday night where you can sample local microbrews and wine. Then buzz over to the Macey Center to be entertained by singer/song

writer Eliza Gilkyson. Etscorn Observatory will be open for a star party Saturday night.

There is so much to choose from; these are merely a few highlights of activities in town! There is plenty more going on at the Bosque. Pick up a catalog of events and activities from the Chamber of Commerce, the Public Library, or the Heritage and Visitor Center and make your choices now!



Smokey the Bear samples some honey at the 2008 Festival of the Cranes exhibit tent.

Farmer's Market Closes...and Opens!

Traditionally the Socorro Farmer's Market closes down for the season at the end of October, but this year, Socorroans will have the opportunity to shop for locally grown produce through the winter.

Many local growers have been building hoop houses and using methods for extending the growing season. They'll be offering their produce to the public Saturday mornings, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Finley complex. If the weather is nice, the vendors will be outdoors in the courtyard. If it's cold or otherwise inclement, they will be selling their wares inside. Either way, you can find them by going in the south entrance of the school, across the parking lot from the Police Station. You won't find fresh tomatoes or corn or peas, but you

will find greens, sweet potatoes, onions and other seasonal produce as well as jams and jellies, honey, gifts and jewelry.

Plaza Gazebo Gets a New Coat



...of stucco and paint, that is! City crews were busy sprucing up our favorite bandstand just in time for October's Socorro Fest. If you haven't seen

it yet, be sure to stop by some evening and check out the new light fixtures as well as the paint and stucco.

Holiday Lights Parade on tap for Saturday, November 28

Between a throw-down with Bobby Flay and a race with Wile E. Coyote, Socorro has been the center of Hollywood-like attention this year. "Tinsel Town" is the theme of this year's holiday parade slated for Saturday night, November 28. Details, entry forms and information about the parade, the Posole Cookoff and the NEW Tortilla-rolling Contest are available at the Socorro Heritage and Visitor Center.

Waste Water Project on Track for Sewer Hook-ups

Homes on Harold Drive and North Chapparral, about 50 to 60 residences in all, can look forward to hooking into the city sewer system in the next few months. According to City Utilities Director Jay Santillanes, this is a small part of a larger project to eventually extend sewer service to all areas in the city not currently served.

The 1.5 million dollar project will be funded with USDA Rural Development money and funds

from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA, or "stimulus money").

"The goal of ARRA money is to put people to work," said Santillanes, "so there is a lot of employment and 'buy American' reporting. The ARRA requirements are more stringent than the Buy American Act. It all takes quite a bit of research to ensure compliance."

The City's Waste Water Treatment Plant can treat 1.3 million gallons of water per day. At 800,000 gallons per day now, the project will not require plant upgrades. The contract for the pipelines must be awarded by February 17, with work to begin shortly thereafter. Anticipated completion is the end of summer 2010.

To avoid groundwater contamination from old septic systems and leaky tanks, the law requires any residence within 100 feet of City sewer lines to hook into the system and give up its current septic system.

Start Saving Those Receipts...

With Christmas just around the corner, it's time to SHOP LOCALLY and earn Shop Socorro Auction Dollars! It's easy: starting November 1, save your receipts from purchases made at Socorro merchants (\$100 limit from any one business), trade them in for Auction Dollars at the Chamber of Commerce by 5:00 pm December 9, and spend them on gifts generously donated by Socorro businesses. The Shop Socorro Auction will be held December 12 at Finley Gym. Call the Chamber of Commerce for more information: 575-835-0424.

City Council

Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez	Gordy Hicks
Toby Jaramillo	Donald Monette
Michael Olguin, Jr.	Ernest Pargas, Jr.
Peter D. Romero	Chuck Zimmerly
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor	
Pat Salome, City Clerk	